

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)**  
**TYPE: Experimental Product**  
**DATE: August 04, 2003**

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TROPICAL CYCLONE WIND SPEED FORECAST AND PROBABILITY CHART

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The experimental Tropical Cyclone Wind Speed Forecast and Probability Chart (WFP) displays the maximum 1-minute wind speed forecast as a broad blue line on a graph of wind speed versus forecast period. Two narrower lines, labeled 10% and 20% (or 30% in some cases), indicate the probability the maximum wind speed will be some other magnitude than the official NHC forecast. The maximum 1-minute wind speed forecasts correspond to the wind speed forecasts in the Tropical Cyclone Forecast/Advisories (TCM) product. The probabilities are based on NHC forecasts from 1988-1997. NHC issues this experimental product for tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific basins. This experimental product is also issued for subtropical storms.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

National Weather Service (NWS) customer feedback indicates a desire for products in a graphical format. Through this experimental time, June 1 - November 30, 2003, the intent is to receive input from various users of the product and whether the information contained is of any benefit or use.

**3. Audience:**

The product is used by the general public, other NWS National Centers and Weather Forecast Offices, other federal, state, and local government agencies; federal, state, and local emergency managers; maritime interests; and the media.

**4. Presentation Format:**

This is a graphical product in Graphics Interchange Format (GIF).

**5. Feedback Method:**

The NWS Customer Survey for Experimental Products/Services (OMB Control Number 0648-0342) should be used. The survey and survey instructions are located at:

<http://products.weather.gov/Survey.txt>

The experimental feedback period will run from June 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003.

Technical and policy questions and comments for the CWW may be directed to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21  
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager  
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: [Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov](mailto:Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov).

## Part 2 - Technical

### 1. Format and Science Basis:

The WFP is a graphical product produced by hurricane forecasters providing a detailed current intensity assessment and forecast for each tropical system. The probabilities are based on NHC forecasts for the 10 year period from 1988-1997. The product is useful in that it helps to emphasize tropical cyclone intensity forecasts must be viewed in the larger context of the average errors associated with intensity forecasts. For each official TCM product, a given tropical cyclone could become stronger than the NHC forecast, with there being a 10% chance that the wind speed will attain the level indicated by the 10% line plotted above the official NHC forecast. The data base excludes unnamed tropical depressions. Current advisory information is shown at the bottom of the chart. When applicable, the Saffir/Simpson information is shown at the right. "Inland" is indicated for periods when the cyclone center is forecast to be over land. "Ext" indicates the NHC forecasts the cyclone to be extratropical at that time.

### 2. Availability:

The product is disseminated at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) with valid position times corresponding to the advisory time. Since this product is produced only when there are tropical cyclones, an example is available at [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics\\_astorm1.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/graphics_astorm1.shtml). During times of tropical cyclones, the product is available via the Internet at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov> under "Active Tropical Systems" link.

### 3. Additional Information: N/A